

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Executive Meeting Room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jay Frye, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. R. Max Peterson and Ms. Kathleen Pritchard. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999 meeting were approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Arbor Day and Flower and Garden Festival Sub-committee reported that they had filled out the necessary forms for these events.

Mr. Banks reported that he had ordered the brochures they requested.

Mr. Hower asked how many trees could be bought with the \$5,000.00 from the tree-planting budget item from last year. Mr. Banks said that it would depend on the size and the species. But, it would buy approximately 20 – 30 trees.

Mr. Peterson would like the Commission to use some of their money to start buying trees for the proposed arboretum in Robinson Park. He also wondered if some of the Corporations in the Town of Leesburg might donate a tree or some money for the Arboretum project.

Mr. Groothuis asked if there was any place on the Tree Inventory where the Town has lost trees that needed to be replaced this year?

Mr. Banks stated that there is a category called “Stump” but he is not sure if that would be appropriate.

Mr. Groothuis also said that he had been called by the Manager of the Washington Street Condominiums and that there were some Junipers that had been taken down by the Town of Leesburg and he wondered if they were going to be replaced. Mr. Groothuis said that the Manager said they were Town trees on Town property.

Mr. Banks said that he would check the inventory and let Mr. Groothuis know.

Ms. Wall asked if the Town of Leesburg could plant north of the “Flyover” area.

Mr. Banks stated that the Town maintains the Leesburg By-Pass as a whole from Town Limits to Town Limits because the Town was not satisfied with VDOT’s maintenance timetable. Any type of activity on the By-Pass north of the flyover is under a Towns permit. Anything on the remaining portion of the By-Pass is permitted through VDOT exclusively.

Ms. Wall stated that this area is ugly. Anyone coming into the Town from that direction would never know that the Town of Leesburg is a Tree City USA. There isn't a tree for miles out there. Ms. Wall would like the Tree Commission to do something for this area.

Mr. Banks stated that any type of activity in that central island (coming into Leesburg from the East) is under a permit from VDOT.

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson to ask Mr. Banks to put together a plan for this area, (to be known as the Leesburg Eastern Gateway) seconded by Mr. Hicks and approved by all present.

The Commissioners then discussed their budget for FY (2000 – 2001) the results of which are:

• Tree Plantings	\$10,000.00
• Promotions	\$ 2,500.00
• Arbor Day Costs	\$ 1,500.00
• Educational Programs	\$ 500.00
• Flower and Garden Festival	\$ 500.00
Total	\$15,000.00

The Tree Commission also recommends that a budget line item be included in this FY budget to cover the maintenance costs of the dogwood trees on the Route 15 By-pass. The budget amount based on competitive bid may need to be as much as \$40,000.00.

Mr. Groothuis asked if Mr. Banks was able to order the River Birch Tree Seedlings for the Flower & Garden Festival. Mr. Banks stated that they had been ordered.

Mr. Peterson wondered if the Commissioners would be interested in supporting the Virginia State Legislature's proposal for the state to give some additional support to Urban Forestry Programs. It's a technical assistance program. Mr. Peterson will get something in writing to Mr. Banks for the Commission members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hicks would like for the Tri-Commissions meeting to be known as the Joint Committee meeting of the Three Commissions (Environmental Advisory Commission, Parks and Recreational Commission and the Tree Commission).

Mr. Banks suggested that perhaps this name change should be put on the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

The Commission suggested the agenda for the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting be discussed at their next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Ms. Wall asked if Mr. Banks had an exact number of the Dogwoods planted in Town by the Dogwood Ball Committee.

Mr. Banks stated that they planted 346 trees in Town.

Mr. Banks informed the Commissioners of a new Committee being formed in Town for Transportation.

There being no further business the Tree Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

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Susan DeJong, Recording Secretary